

Appl. No.: 10/531,836
Amdt. dated January 24, 2008
Reply to Office Action of August 9, 2007

Amendments to the Claims:

1.-60. (cancelled)

61. (previously presented) The test stand of Claim 78, wherein the drive is configured to permit it to be blocked, and/or braked, and/or released.

62.-67. (cancelled)

68. (previously presented) The test stand of Claim 78, wherein the roller assembly comprises three or more parallel rollers.

69. (previously presented) The test stand of Claim 78, wherein the mounting frame is mounted within a floor opening so that the rollers or cylinders extend above the level of the floor.

70. (previously presented) The test stand of Claim 78, wherein the roller assembly further comprises a slide plate, or an arrangement of rollers, mounted to the mounting frame so as to underlie and support the upper surface of the endless belt.

71. (previously presented) The test stand of Claim 70, wherein the at least two parallel rollers, and/or the slide plate or the arrangement of rollers, includes a guide means for absorbing lateral forces imparted to the endless belt during operation of the test stand.

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72. (previously presented) The test stand of Claim 78, wherein the test stand is in the form of an independent functional module.

73. (previously presented) The test stand of Claim 78 further comprising a freely rotatable support roller mounted to the mounting frame so as to be positioned behind and/or in front of the wheel of the vehicle being tested and so as to engage the wheel during testing thereof.

74. (previously presented) The test stand of Claim 73 wherein each support roller is mounted for movement between a raised operative position and a lowered position which permits the wheel of the vehicle being tested to travel over the support roller.

75. (cancelled)

76. (previously presented) The test stand of Claim 78, wherein the drive comprises an electric motor which is operatively connected to one of the rollers.

77. (previously presented) The test stand of Claim 78, wherein the roller assembly further comprises a tensioning device for tensioning the endless belt.

78. (currently amended) A test stand for motor vehicles comprising

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a mounting frame,

a roller assembly mounted to the mounting frame so as to permit at least slight movement in each of at least two degrees of freedom relative to the mounting frame, with said roller assembly comprising at least two parallel rollers with an endless belt extending about the peripheries of the rollers so as to form a rotatable contact surface positioned to support a rolling wheel of a motor vehicle thereupon, and wherein the at least two degrees of freedom include a first degree of movement corresponding to a horizontal direction of travel along which the vehicle is adapted to move and a second degree of movement corresponding to a horizontal direction which is transverse to the direction of travel, and a drive for rotating the rollers and the endless belt, [[and]]

sensor means for measuring the force or displacement between the roller assembly and the mounting frame in each of the two degrees of freedom, and

wherein the roller assembly is mounted to the mounting frame to permit at least slight movement relative to the mounting frame about a further degree of movement corresponding to a vertical direction, and wherein the sensor means is configured for measuring the force or displacement between the roller assembly and the mounting frame in the vertical direction.

79. (previously presented) The test stand of claim 78, wherein the two parallel rollers are mounted to the mounting frame so that the axes thereof are parallel to the transverse direction.

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80. (currently amended) The test stand of claim 79, wherein the roller assembly is mounted to the mounting frame to permit at least slight movement relative to the mounting frame about another ~~a third~~ degree of movement corresponding to the angle of rotation about a vertical axis, and wherein the sensor means is configured for measuring the angle of rotation about said axis.

81. (previously presented) The test stand of claim 79, wherein the at least two parallel rollers include aligned grooves which receive guide elements which form a part of the endless belt, so as to absorb lateral forces imparted to the belt during operation of the test strand.

82.-83. (cancelled)

84. (new) A test stand for motor vehicles comprising a mounting frame, a roller assembly mounted to the mounting frame so as to permit at least slight movement in each of at least two degrees of freedom relative to the mounting frame, with said roller assembly comprising at least two parallel rollers with an endless belt extending about the peripheries of the rollers so as to form a rotatable contact surface positioned to support a rolling wheel of a motor vehicle thereupon, and wherein the at least two degrees of freedom include a first degree of movement corresponding to a horizontal direction of travel along which the vehicle is adapted to move and a second degree of movement

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corresponding to a horizontal direction which is transverse to the direction of travel, and a drive for rotating the rollers and the endless belt,

sensor means for measuring the force or displacement between the roller assembly and the mounting frame in each of the two degrees of freedom,

wherein the two parallel rollers are mounted to the mounting frame so that the axes thereof are parallel to the transverse direction, and wherein the at least two parallel rollers include aligned grooves which receive guide elements which form a part of the endless belt, so as to absorb lateral forces imparted to the belt during operation of the test strand.

85. (new) The test stand of claim 84, wherein the roller assembly is mounted to the mounting frame to permit at least slight movement relative to the mounting frame about a further degree of movement corresponding to a vertical direction, and wherein the sensor means is configured for measuring the force or displacement between the roller assembly and the mounting frame in the vertical direction.

86. (new) The test stand of claim 85 wherein the roller assembly is mounted to the mounting frame to permit at least slight movement relative to the mounting frame about another degree of movement corresponding to the angle of rotation about a vertical axis, and wherein the sensor means is configured for measuring the angle of rotation about said axis.